

Department of Human Services

Prepared by the
DHS Office of
Communications
(517) 373-7394



Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, May 2, 2007

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	2-18
Juvenile Justice	19-20
Health Care	21-22
Domestic Violence	23-24
Child Support	25-26
Information Technology	27
DHS Employees	28-29
News Release	30

*Important story at this spot



Family members file for custody of Grant children

May 1, 2007

By AMBER HUNT

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Up to a court: where the children of Tara Grant, the Washington Township woman allegedly slain and dismembered by her husband, will end up calling home.

Grant's sister, Alicia Standerfer, and sister-in-law have filed for custody of her 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son, who've been living in Ohio with Standerfer since shortly after the discovery of her sister's remains.

Stephen Grant, 37, faces charges of first-degree murder and mutilating a corpse. His preliminary exam is set for May 15 to decide if enough evidence warrants a trial in circuit court.

Standerfer and Stephen Grant's sister, Kelly Utykanski, both filed for permanent custody of the children in Macomb County Juvenile Court.

The court hasn't yet terminated Stephen Grant's parental rights. A hearing was set for late June to decide whether to terminate.

Today marked the first time since Grant's arraignment in early March that members from both families stood in a courtroom alongside Grant, who wore a blue prison jumpsuit and shackles.

Also today, a motion for default judgment in a civil suit filed by Standerfer was adjourned until May 14 before Circuit Judge Matthew Switalski. Standerfer is seeking \$50 million in the death of her sister; legal experts have said the civil suit likely will be postponed until the criminal trial is finished.

Copyright © 2007 Detroit Free Press Inc.



Petitions filed for Grant kids

Maternal, paternal aunts seek custody

May 2, 2007

BY AMBER HUNT

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Their mother is dead. Their father, in jail. And now Tara Grant's two children are the subject of a tug-of-war to decide where they will end up calling home.

Grant, 34, of Washington Township was allegedly strangled and dismembered by her husband, Stephen Grant, in February.

Tara Grant's sister, Alicia Standerfer, filed a petition Tuesday to terminate her brother-in-law's parental rights. She filed another petition looking to adopt the Grants' 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son.

But Stephen Grant's sister, Kelly Utykanski, of Sterling Heights also wants custody. She filed a similar petition with the Macomb County Juvenile Court on Tuesday.

And Grant wants her to have custody, the Utykanskis' lawyer said.

The children have been living with Standerfer in Ohio since early March, when Tara Grant's torso was discovered in the family's garage and her other remains found in nearby Stony Creek Metropark.

"These are her sister's children. Their natural father has been charged with her murder," said Michael J. Smith, Standerfer's Sterling Heights-based lawyer. "Why she'd want custody speaks for itself."

The children, he said, are doing well.

On Tuesday, Juvenile Court Referee Deborah Brune scheduled a June 27 pretrial hearing on the termination of parental rights. If the matter goes to trial, it would be heard before a judge, not by a jury.

Grant, 37, faces charges of first-degree murder and mutilating a corpse. His preliminary exam is set for May 15 to decide whether there's enough evidence to warrant a criminal trial.

Grant wants his children placed with his sister and her husband, Chris, said Pam Radzinski, the Utykanskis' lawyer. The couple have filed for direct placement adoption, which would allow Grant to decide where his children live.

Standerfer filed for relative placement adoption, meaning she'd like custody based on her familial relationship.

"Stephen still has legal custody over his children," Radzinski said. "He wants to directly place his children with Kelly and Chris."

Also, a motion for default judgment in a civil suit filed by Standerfer has been scheduled for May 16 before Circuit Judge Matthew Switalski. Standerfer filed the suit seeking \$50 million in the wrongful death of her sister. Another court hearing also is scheduled for May 16 to ask that Stephen Grant's rights to his wife's life insurance and estate be terminated.

Contact **AMBER HUNT** at 313-222-2708 or alhunt@freepress.com.

Copyright © 2007 Detroit Free Press Inc.

[Return to regular web page](#)



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

May 1, 2007

Battle for Stephen Grant's kids begins

Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS -- Both the sister and sister-in-law of Stephen Grant today filed paperwork in separate bids for custody of Grant's two young children.

Alicia Standerfer, the sister of Grant's deceased wife, Tara Grant, filed a motion today in Macomb Circuit Court to terminate Stephen Grant's parental rights of his two young children. Standerfer has temporary custody of Stephen and Tara Grant's two children, ages 6 and 4, who live with her at her home in Chillicothe, Ohio.

She filed the motion with Macomb County Juvenile Court Referee Deborah Brune.

"Alicia wanted a voice to let the courts know she wants to adopt the children," said Michael Smith, attorney for Standerfer. "She wanted to protect her rights to adopt."

Meanwhile, in Macomb County juvenile court, Stephen Grant's sister, Kelly Utykanski, who lives in Sterling Heights with her husband, today filed a motion for a direct placement adoption of the Grant children.

The state has current custody of the children, though Stephen Grant still retains his parental rights. A hearing will be held in June to determine the status of Grant's parental rights. If his rights are terminated, the court will hold another hearing to determine what happens to the children.

Stephen Grant is charged in the February death and dismemberment of his wife. She had been missing for three weeks when investigators found her remains at Stony Creek Metropark and in the Grants' garage.

Smith said Grant -- who remained lodged without bond in the Macomb County Jail -- appeared at today's hearing but did not interact with Standerfer.

You can reach Edward L. Cardenas at (586) 468-0529 or ecardenas@detnews.com.

[Return to regular web page](#)

[Return to regular web page](#)



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

May 2, 2007

Mount Clemens

Custody battle for Grant's children escalates

Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS -- Tension is mounting in the custody fight for Stephen Grant's two young children.

The sisters of Stephen Grant and his murdered wife, Tara Grant, both filed paperwork Tuesday in separate bids to adopt the couple's two children, ages 6 and 4.

The children are in the temporary custody of Tara Grant's sister, Alicia Standerfer, of Chillicothe, Ohio. Standerfer filed a motion Tuesday in Macomb Circuit Court to terminate Stephen Grant's parental rights, a move intended to supplement her adoption request already on file, her lawyer said.

Also on Tuesday, Stephen Grant's sister, Kelly Utykanski of Sterling Heights, filed a motion in Macomb County juvenile court for direct adoption of the children. The state of Michigan took custody of the children after Stephen Grant was jailed without bond in connection with the Feb. 9 murder of his wife.

Utykanski said Tuesday that she and her husband, Chris, were closer to the children than Standerfer and her husband, Erik. She added that Grant indicated he wanted the children placed with the Utykanskis.

"We saw (the children) a tremendous amount. We saw them more extensively than Alicia," Utykanski said.

Utykanski added she has only had two one-hour visits with the children since Standerfer received temporary custody. She said if she receives custody, she would give Standerfer generous visitation.

"We don't feel it would be reciprocated the other way," Utykanski said.

Standerfer declined comment when contacted by The News about Tuesday's proceedings. Her petition to terminate Stephen Grant's parental rights joins a similar petition being sought by the state.

A hearing will be held in June to determine the status of Grant's parental rights. If his rights are terminated, the court will hold another hearing to see what happens to the children.

Stephen Grant is charged in the death and dismemberment of his wife, Tara. She had been missing for three weeks when investigators found her remains at Stony Creek Metropark and in the Grants' garage.

[Return to regular web page](#)



Stephen Grant's sister seeks custody of kids

She says Tara's family not allowing enough visitation with children

By Chad Halcom

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Sisters of the slain Tara Grant and of her husband, murder defendant Stephen Grant, each took competing steps Tuesday toward adopting the couple's two young children.

Kelly Utykanski of Sterling Heights and her husband, Chris, brought a motion for direct adoption placement through her attorney, Pamela Radzinski, in a Macomb County juvenile court proceeding.

The request, if granted, could essentially transfer Stephen Grant's custodial rights to the children to Utykanski.

"We've been able only to see the children twice since this incident (Stephen's arrest), and each time it was for something like an hour or so," Utykanski explained after the hearing. "We're pretty discouraged about that, because we would've allowed them (Tara's family) to have adequate time with the children, and it hasn't been reciprocated."

Meanwhile, Tara's sister Alicia Standerfer and her husband, Eric, have brought a petition through their attorney Michael J. Smith to terminate Stephen Grant's parental rights. Attorneys for the state Department of Human Services already made a similar request weeks ago, but the Standerfer request could bypass a child placement system for wards of the court and allow them to adopt directly.

The Standerfers of Chilicothe, Ohio, already have temporary custody of the two Grant children -- Lindsay, 6; and Ian, 4.

"The motion today gives voice to their (the Standerfers') desire to adopt," Smith explained of the Tuesday petition. "But at some point later, we will expect to make arguments in a trial proceeding."

Mrs. Grant, 34, of Washington Township, a married mother of two and an operations manager for Washington Group International, went missing Feb. 9 after returning home from the latest of several trips to her employer's field offices in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

After several weeks of investigation, police and prosecutors recovered Tara's dismembered remains inside the family home on Westridge and in some areas of nearby Stony Creek Metropark.

At that time Stephen Grant, her husband of more than 10 years, fled to northern Michigan and tried to hide out in a park near Petoskey, until he was found and lifted out by Coast Guard helicopter in early March.

Hours later, he spoke with Macomb County Sheriff's investigators and allegedly admitted strangling his wife, then dismembering her. He faces charges of first-degree murder and mutilation or disinterment of a corpse at the district court, and remains jailed without bond.

Since then the children were briefly in Utykanski's care but were then placed with the Standerfers within days of Grant's arrest. Recently, DHS officials completed an investigation of the home environment and allowed the Standerfers to take the children back to Ohio.

Tuesday was supposed to be a pretrial date on the parental rights case before Macomb County Juvenile Court Referee Deborah Brune. But court officials agreed to schedule another pretrial hearing Jun 27 in part because Grant's attorney, Stephen Donovan, hasn't received all the discovery or shared information in the case.

"I made a point in there (the court hearing) of noting that the media probably has obtained more discovery information than I have so far," Donovan said, referring to a decision last month to release police reports and other investigative materials to the press under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

"At this point I'm going to have to look over the second petition from the Standerfers to terminate (parental rights), because it seems almost exactly like the petition we have already."

But Utykanski said she has already hired another attorney for Stephen, Douglas Oliver, who in cooperation with Radzinski will help carry out his wishes to transfer custody. Utykanski has long maintained in the case that the children should spend time with both families, with one having custody and the other having generous visitation time.

"Stephen's wish is for us to have custody," she said.

"If the court goes with (the Standerfers) I don't know if we have standing to ask for custody or visitation because as an aunt and uncle we're not immediate family. That's why we decided to take this approach, rather than open adoption."

Both the Standerfers and the Utykanskis essentially propose streamlining the adoption process, court officials explained. If Stephen Grant's rights were terminated under the current petition at Juvenile Court through DHS, the children would have to become wards of the court and go through the Michigan Child Institute for adoptive placement.

The Standerfer petition would essentially bypass the state wardship and allow the maternal aunt and uncle to proceed directly to adoption. The Utykanski motion would essentially forgo terminating Stephen's rights and just transfer them to his family.

In other court proceedings: Grant awaits a May 14 hearing on a default judgment in a civil action by the Standerfers for wrongful death; a May 15 preliminary examination charge on the murder case; and a May 16 hearing in Probate Court on control over the family's assets.

Click here to return to story:

http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/050207/loc_grantkids001.shtml

The County Press

Shocking find at home

by SUSAN YOUNGER
staff reporter

Deputies rescued two young, unclothed siblings from their trash and feces littered Mackenzie Lane home Friday.

There was no answer when Lapeer County Sheriff's deputies Stacy Stimson and Alex Romig knocked at the home's front door with intentions to serve papers for an upcoming court hearing. The deputies saw an older Chevrolet van in the driveway and, through an open overhead garage door, they spotted assorted material, trash and storage piled about neck deep through the garage and blocking the entrance into the home.

The two approached a rear door on the east side of the home and that entry was also surrounded by trash and toys. While the deputies knocked and rang the bell, two small children came to the window. The girl, 3, and boy, 2, were naked, had matted long hair and running noses. The boy had a reddish cut on his cheek which appeared to be infected.

After seeing the two children, the deputies began yelling and banging on all the doors for more than a half hour in an attempt to find an adult. The Michigan Department of Human Services was contacted, and prior to their arrival, Romig found an unlocked door. The prosecutor's office advised them to enter the home to check on the children's safety.

The home's condition was deplorable as floors were covered with trash, food particles and toys, reported Stimson. A foul smell filled the rooms. There were used trash bags laying about. In one area of the living room, what appeared to be human feces was smeared in a circular pattern on the wall.

The 42-year-old mother told Stimson and Romig the two children are uncontrollable and she was forced to lock them out of the bathroom during episodes from her medical condition. While looking over the children, deputies found their hair so matted they could not at first tell the gender of the boy. They were also concerned about the infected cut.

Neither child seemed able to talk. They raised their hands for their mother to pick them up and threw tantrums if she didn't comply, reported Stimson. A Department of Human Services case worker arrived and the brother and sister were carried out to an awaiting van, biting and kicking like scared animals, reported Stimson.

According to sheriff department records, Friday's incident was the second time the children have been removed from the home. The mother has no previous criminal history.

Department of Human Services Child Services Director Mike Sumbur said he is unable to comment on specific cases. Stimson filed a warrant request with the prosecutor's office for their determination of possible child abuse charges.

"The main point is the kids are out of the house and safe," said Lapeer County assistant prosecutor Tom Sparrow. "It's still under investigation at this point."

Susan Younger may be reached at (810) 664-0811, Ext. 8122 or susan.younger@lapeergroup.com.

Click here to return to story:

http://www.countypress.com/stories/050207/loc_20070502001.shtml



Discarded baby case awaits data

Flint Twp. woman on bond as medical tests analyzed

FLINT TOWNSHIP

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Tuesday, May 01, 2007

By Ron Fonger

rfonger@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6317

FLINT TWP. - Andrea M. Kline was the subject of Internet message boards and news reports after police charged that the Flint Township woman killed her newborn son and dumped him in a hotel wastebasket three months ago in Watertown, N.Y.

Now, the case against Kline has been relegated to the back burner as experts sort through medical reports to determine exactly how the baby died and whether Kline, possibly the only witness, is responsible.

Kline, 21, a 2004 Powers Catholic High School graduate, was charged with second-degree murder in February. Police alleged she killed her son and left his body in a trash can at a Best Western motel.

Cindy Intschert, the district attorney for Jefferson County, N.Y., has not taken the case to a grand jury and isn't talking about it.

Unlike in Michigan, a grand jury indictment is a necessary step for prosecution in New York. Kline's attorney, James R. McGraw of Syracuse, N.Y., said the unusual wait comes because there are questions about the baby's death.

Prosecutors have said Kline's baby died from blunt force trauma. But McGraw has said Kline never meant to kill her child.

McGraw said his medical experts still have questions and are still waiting for some records.

"There's a question whether it was an accident," McGraw said. "We're waiting for medical reports. The circumstances of the death are very unique."

McGraw has said the child appears to have been injured when Kline, while in shock after suddenly going into labor, grabbed his head and tried to pull him from the birth canal. Her attorney has said Kline was visiting the baby's father, who was showering in the hotel room, when she went into labor. The Flint Journal has been unable to reach Kline or her family for comment.

Kline was a junior at Western Michigan University at the time of her arrest. She no longer is enrolled at the school, according to the WMU registrar's office.

She is free on \$250,000 bail.

Detective Sgt. Richard Wood of the Watertown Police Department said the wait for the district attorney to present her case to a grand jury reflects the volume of evidence. He said the three-month wait isn't unusual.

QUICK TAKE

A stalled case

Time has passed, but no action has been taken in Andrea M. Kline's case. The timeline so far:

Feb. 6: Police in Watertown, N.Y., arrest Kline of Flint Township for unlawfully disposing of a body, claiming she gave birth in a hotel room and dumped the baby in a wastebasket.

Feb. 7: Prosecutors add a second-degree murder charge after an autopsy shows the baby died of head injuries caused by blunt force trauma.

Feb. 8: Kline is released from jail and, as of Monday, is still waiting for a grand jury to act.

In New York, the district attorney is elected and functions much like a county prosecutor in Michigan but must take felony cases to a grand jury before a case moves forward.

The Journal could not reach Intschert, but an employee in her office said she has nothing to discuss about the Kline case. Vonnice Joels, an investigator for the Jefferson County medical examiner, would not comment, either.

Kline would have a chance to testify in front of the grand jury - something that usually doesn't happen, said Dan Richman, a law professor at Fordham University School of Law in New York.

Richman said the deliberate pace of the case isn't surprising when there are medical questions involved and the suspect is free on bond.

"If she's out on bond, in many cases by mutual consent, the process can take some time," Richman said.

©2007 Flint Journal

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



Father of woman accused of killing baby says she's innocent

FLINT TOWNSHIP

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, May 02, 2007

By Ron Fonger

rfonger@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6317

FLINT TWP. - Andrea M. Kline's father says his 21-year-old daughter is innocent of charges she killed her newborn son in New York state and dumped him in a hotel wastebasket three months ago.

Andrea Kline, a 2004 Powers Catholic High School graduate, was charged with second-degree murder and unlawfully disposing of a body in February after the baby was discovered in a trash can at a Best Western motel.

Douglas Kline, Andrea Kline's father, said Tuesday his family is optimistic the charges against his daughter will not stand. Her attorney has suggested the baby's death was accidental.

"Right now we're just in a state of waiting," Douglas Kline said. "Andrea is innocent of all the charges."

The Flint Journal reported Tuesday that Kline's case still hasn't been presented to a grand jury - something that has to happen for the felony charges to move forward.

Kline's attorney, James R. McGraw of Syracuse, N.Y., has said the unusual wait comes because there are serious questions about the baby's death.

The Journal has been unable to reach District Attorney Cindy Intschert of Jefferson County, N.Y., for comment.

Prosecutors have said Kline's baby died from blunt force trauma.

©2007 Flint Journal

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

[<<Back](#)

Disabled ten-year-old girl dies of bathtub burns

HARRISBURG, Pa. In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the father of a ten-year-old disabled girl and a female relative have been charged in the child's death.

Authorities say Quinieece Lockett was severely burned by scalding bath water, and died after going more than a week without medical treatment. An autopsy concluded the cause of death was complications from burns.

Quinieece was blind and partially paralyzed, and had cerebral palsy.

Police say her father and another relative have been charged with criminal homicide, endangering a child's welfare and two counts of conspiracy.

Copyright 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2007 WorldNow and WLNS. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Freed murderer accused of using MySpace to seek sex with girl

Grand Haven Tribune

NOVI (AP) — A convicted murderer used the MySpace social networking site to solicit sex from what he thought was a 14-year-old girl — but turned out to be a state investigator — Michigan's attorney general said.

The 52-year-old ex-con was arrested Sunday when he went to meet his MySpace correspondent at a parking lot in Novi, about 20 miles west of Detroit, said Attorney General Mike Cox.

Robert N. Reeves II of Detroit was arraigned Monday before a District Court magistrate on charges of child sexual abuse and using the Internet to commit child sexual abuse. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Cox said Reeves spent several months communicating with the investigator he believed was a teenage girl.

"This case should be a reminder to parents that social networking Web sites can serve as a hunting ground for predators," Cox said Monday in a news release.

Reeves was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to prison in 1974 and was released from state supervision in 1987, state Department of Corrections records show. He also was convicted of unarmed robbery in 1973 and carrying a concealed weapon in 1984.

Details of his previous crimes were not immediately available.

Reeves was being held in the Oakland County jail in lieu of a \$100,000 bond. He was scheduled to return to court for a hearing May 9.



Judge rips into 'pastor' in kiddie porn case, sentences him to 13-20 years

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Tuesday, May 01, 2007

By Paul Janczewski

pjanczewski@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6333

"Pastor Paul" was described as a vile predator and con man who used the guise of religion to promote his sexual fantasies.

That statement came last week from a woman who said Paul L. Gagnon "stripped (her son) of his manliness" by first gaining his trust and then taking sexually explicit pictures.

Gagnon, 51, of Flint, apologized before being sentenced to 13-20 years in prison on 38 counts related to manufacture and possession of child porn.

Genesee County Circuit Judge Archie L. Hayman also sentenced Gagnon to up to 7 years on charges relating to eavesdropping, using a computer to commit a crime and child sexually abusive activity.

"What you've done here is devastating for the amount of pain you've inflicted," Hayman said.

He blasted Gagnon, a self-described youth pastor, for invoking God's name while furthering his 30-plus year history of preying on children.

Gagnon, soft-spoken and calm even as he faced a long prison sentence, accepted blame for his actions and said the fact he hurt people haunts him every day.

But he vowed to continue his religious ways, even though he has lost the support of his church group and his family.

"God has insisted I continue ministering," he said. "That's what I was called to do."

Gagnon earlier entered pleas to 48 charges related to child porn. He was known to many as "Pastor Paul" while working with disadvantaged youth.

In all, he pleaded no contest to 36 counts carrying up to 20 years in prison, four 7-year felonies, seven 4-year felonies and one 2-year felony.

Officials found thousands of pictures and videos of child porn, some in Gagnon's computer and others in photo albums or on video tape.

Prosecutors could have leveled hundreds of charges against Gagnon, based on the evidence found, but said they had to draw the line somewhere to streamline the case.

The case began in July when the teen who lived with Gagnon at his residence, 508 Leland St., found an elaborate spy camera system that led to Gagnon's bedroom.

He later found pictures in Gagnon's office of himself getting dressed, of Gagnon standing over him and taking pictures as he slept nude, and pictures of the his girlfriend using the toilet.

Those items were taken to Flint police, who arrested Gagnon in early August.

That teen's mother said Gagnon befriended her son and the entire family but used "lies and deceit" to abuse, use and hurt people.

Later, Gagnon's family members found more computer equipment while cleaning out the residence. That equipment, allegedly containing child porn, also was that over to police.

Officials said they found evidence that Gagnon has been engaged in this behavior for years; at least one tape was made in the early 1990s.

One of those family members was Gagnon's stepson, who found nude pictures of himself and of several friends, secretly taken by Gagnon.

The man said he would have been 12 years old then and said seeing the images disgusted him.

A video made in the 1990s was also found of a naked Gagnon standing over a sleeping boy and masturbating.

Gagnon could have been sentenced to more prison as a habitual offender for a 1994 federal bank fraud conviction.

©2007 Flint Journal

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

QUICK READS

Tuesday, May 01, 2007

Safety event for kids set for Saturday

Safe Kids Kalamazoo County and the Kalamazoo County Department of Human Services are hosting a child-safety fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 322 E. Stockbridge Ave., Kalamazoo. A child-car-seat check and education on poison prevention, water safety and bike safety are among offerings. For more information, call Safe Kids at 341-8830.

Public invited to Mental Health's breakfast

The public is welcome to attend Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' annual mental-health breakfast, from 9:30 to 11 Friday in the Georgian Room, 3299 Gull Road in Kalamazoo. The meeting gives families and others an opportunity to offer suggestions for improving services. The keynote speaker is Janet Olszewski, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health. For more information, call (269) 553-8000.

©2007 Kalamazoo

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

[<<Back](#)

Technicians could be used to nab abusers

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. Laws being proposed in two states would mandate that computer technicians be obligated to report child abuse just like doctors, teachers and others who work closely with children. The proposals are in California and Connecticut.

A police computer expert in Connecticut says alerts from computer technicians can help stop some abuse cases faster, and that one report did lead to an abuser being convicted.

But a spokesman for the Computing Technology Industry Association says technicians are concerned about potential liability if they overlook or fail to report abuse. He says any evidence of abuse would certainly be more ambiguous, than what a doctor, teacher or daycare worker might notice.

A lawmaker who supports the Connecticut proposal says it's meant to protect technicians who feel it's their obligation to report something that looks suspicious.

Copyright 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2007 WorldNow and WOODTV. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Children do well when parents do well

Parents are children's first teachers, but not their only teachers.

Child care providers, teachers, doctors, neighbors, coaches, and grandparents all influence children as well.

The quality and stability of young children's relationships affect virtually all aspects of their development, according to Katie Smith, recipient rights advisor for Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare Systems.

Children learn a lot in their early years – they learn respect for others, right from wrong, and how to get along with each other. All the people they come in contact with can help reinforce this learning and influence their long-term development.

“Surround a child with secure relationships and stimulating experiences, and he/she will incorporate that environment to become a confident, caring adult, ready to be part of society,” Smith said. “But if he or she is surrounded by violence or given little intellectual or emotional stimulation, it will be much more difficult to grow up successfully.”

As members of the community we should each ask ourselves: Are we providing the kind of environment that will allow children to grow into citizens who give back to communities?

Imagine coming home from the hospital with your new baby and having no family members nearby and no close ties to your neighbors.

Imagine that these stresses are compounded by financial worries and a job in jeopardy. The loneliness and stress would put a strain on the most loving parent and could cause parents to neglect a child due to their own despair.

Social isolation is common for new parents, often struggling to figure out how to juggle jobs and parenting.

It doesn't have to be that way.

As reported by Prevent Child Abuse America, many communities are working to prevent problems before they start by developing neighborhood ties that can bring people together.

These communities are creating play groups for new families held at community centers, local libraries, or schools. At these groups, parents meet others who are having the same experiences, and they build relationships that can lead to long-term friendships and support.

Other communities are working with health professionals to provide at-home visits to new parents to help them adjust to the demands of parenthood and provide a link to the community. From financial assistance, to safe places for children to play, to better housing, there are many ways that communities can support families.

“Children do well when their parents do well,” Smith said. “And parents do better when they live in communities that actively support families. We can all play a positive part.”

Contact the Iron-Dickinson Children's Advocacy Network at (906) 875-0604 to talk to some people already working in this community.



Officials: Hanover-Horton student to be charged with terrorism threat

Wednesday, May 02, 2007

By Steven Hepker

shepker@citpat.com -- 768-4923

A troubled 13-year-old boy will be charged with threats of terrorism for an alleged plot to take hostages at Hanover-Horton Middle School.

Prosecutor Hank Zavislak and Jackson County Undersheriff Thomas Finco said today the investigation began Thursday when a fellow student said the boy talked of suicide and planned to point a gun at police, forcing them to shoot him.

Deputy Travis Williams interviewed students last week, and the boy's parents took him for medical evaluation, officials said.

More information emerged from other students over the weekend. A mother searched her son's backpack and found "notes of the ! student's plans for a hostage situation as well as goodbye notes," Finco said in a release today.

The backpack also contained "detailed plans of the school, hiding places, shooters' names and a list of supplies needed to carry out his plan."

The mother contacted school officials, and they alerted sheriff's school liaison Tony McNeil, Finco said. Acting on a search warrant, investigators seized five air guns, a folding knife, cable and chains from the suspect's home. Finco said the items were mentioned in written plans.

The student was suspended pending a review by the school board. Finco said the boy will be petitioned into Juvenile Court for threats of terrorism, a 20-year felony in adult court. He and Zavislak acknowledged the boy needs psychological help.

Superintendent Linda Brian said today school personnel were apprised of the investigation and that there was no cause to disrupt classes. The boy has not been in school since Thursday.

"There never was a time when any students were in danger," Brian said. "The boy was a threat to himself more than to anyone else."

©2007 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State should increase sales tax, stop cutting

Our state is in serious financial difficulty. That is a given. How we get out of it is the big question on everyone's mind.

I feel it is the responsibility of the legislators and the citizens of the state to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves. We have the responsibility to keep all the services for those in need at a level to provide for their care. It is easy to cut money from those programs because not many speak up in support of that group.

I work for Mercy Hospice. I have seen the benefits provided to those in their final days. I have seen the dedication of the staff to assist them in their journey. Cut funds for them? Doesn't make sense. Let people stay in their homes. Cheaper than putting them in a nursing home which usually ends up costing the state more money in the long run.

My husband works for Nokomis Challenge Center in Prudenville. I have seen the dedica-

tion of the employees helping and caring for the troubled young boys in the program. I have heard the success stories. Young men turned around to become productive, tax paying citizens of Michigan and examples for others to follow. Why would we as a state cut these programs? I heard there is a proposal to privatize these programs. Based on current information after all the hidden costs are added in, it will cost the state approximately \$25 more a day than is currently being spent. How much sense does that make? And private programs can choose who they want to take. Who takes those who don't fill the bill for private programs?

Why would we cut education? Smart, well-taught kids are the future of Michigan. The solution seems so simple. The fairest way is to increase the sales tax. Those who have more and buy more pay more; those who have less pay less.

Is it smart to lay off more employees to save money and then have those residents leave Michigan for other states because there are no jobs in Michigan for them? Doesn't make much sense to me.

It is time to start thinking of the future of Michigan and it will cost. We cannot expect those who can least afford it to continue taking the brunt of tax cuts. Michigan has cut until it is bleeding, actually hemorrhaging.

I encourage legislators to take a serious look at an increase in sales tax and stop the cutting of essential services and education. Stand up and make the tough decisions needed to make Michigan a great state again. They should put aside partisan politics and encourage others to follow their lead.

s/Sherry Haag
Grayling

Community needs Nokomis Challenge Center

Project H.O.P.E. needs your help! We need to make sure that Nokomis Challenge Center does not lose its funding.

I realize that it is important to save taxpayer dollars. However, I have personal experience in dealing with a wonderful facility, Nokomis Challenge Center, Prudenville.

I work with the boys two to three times each month and appreciate what Nokomis Challenge Center has accomplished with troubled youth. These young men deserve better than putting them in a private facility and throwing away the "key." Nokomis Challenge Center has created a unique facility, where the charges are mainstreamed into our community on large projects. I have worked with these young men at our food bank, which serves over 11,000 yearly. I have worked with the boys at Tip-up Town, Russ Graham Memorial Dinner, our food bank and Habitat for Humanity. The Wesleyan Church is also involved with these boys. These programs develop a sense of community and caring for the young men at Nokomis.

I oppose any initiatives that reduce fund-

ing to Michigan's Bureau of Juvenile Justice. Privatization may present lower cost factors. However, I believe that it would cost me, the taxpayer more money by doing this. Nokomis Challenge Center is a 40-bed facility and spends \$244 per diem. Privatizing this would cost the taxpayer \$266 per diem. Tell me where is the cost savings?

Successful young men have left Nokomis. Several have entered college and the service. One young man contacts the center from Iraq. I believe that integrating troubled youth back into the community is an important part of their recovery. I have first hand knowledge of how well Nokomis Challenge Center blends into our community.

Everyone in Roscommon County needs to let the governor, Sen. McManus and Rep. Shelton know what this facility means to all of us in Roscommon County.

Please support keeping the juvenile justice system in keeping it within state confines. I also will be contacting every representative, senator and judge who has sent youth to

Nokomis. We need this facility in our community.

s/Pamela Stephan
Volunteer Coordinator, Project HOPE
Prudenville

Pay attention to the 'nobodies'

Better pay attention to "nobodies," the alienated, the bullied loners. Reach out and ix to the disenchanteds. We'll all pay if we take them for granted. "Respect" means to look again at downers. "How are you today?" will beat a frowner. Putdowns will seldom help the down and out.

Lifting kids is what teaching's all about. The master teacher'd rather pull than shove. Make time in your plan for some words o' love. 'Cause if you don't you'll only make things worse. It won't be long before we'll hear the hearse.

Don Mainprize
Roscommon



Reform on way in health-care rights

Wednesday, May 02, 2007

JILL ARMENTROUT

THE SAGINAW NEWS

Americans should consider health care and housing basic human rights, according to a national advocate for services for the homeless.

"We have nearly 46 million uninsured people because we treat housing and health care as commodities, not rights," said John N. Lozier, executive director of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council in Nashville, Tenn.

"We haven't lived up to our Bill of Rights in these areas."

Speaking at a Saginaw community forum during recent Cover the Uninsured Week activities, he wore a button on his jacket that read "Our national health plan -- don't get sick."

The best way to give more people the right to health care is to create a single-payer, universal health insurance plan, Lozier said.

"Right now, health care is bought and sold for profit. The health-care industry makes up about 15 percent of the national economy and 31 percent of health-care spending goes to administration and profits of insurance companies. That limits access."

He praised U.S. House Bill 676, the

U.S. National Health Insurance Act first introduced in 2003 by Rep. John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, as a solution. The bill would create a publicly financed, privately delivered health-care system that expands and improves the existing Medicare benefit to reach all U.S. residents.

"We can't continue to exist as two separate societies, one with care and one without," Lozier said. "Reform is

coming."

Saginaw County's Healthy Futures collaboration

sponsored the talk, and Lozier praised the organization for its work providing free health clinics, referrals to other services and assistance in finding coverage for those who qualify.

"The guides who help navigate

residents through health care provide one of the strongest efforts I've seen using people in the community to do this direct work," he said.

The collaboration of 17 organizations includes Saint Mary's of Michigan

hospital, Covenant HealthCare, the Hunger Solution Center and Health Delivery Inc., all in Saginaw. A \$1.3 million federal grant built the initiative in 2002. To date, leaders said Healthy Futures has served more than 7,876 patients.

Loss of health insurance can lead to loss of job and home and bring someone into homelessness, Lozier said. Many people are there because they've "burned out" their support systems, often because of behavioral health issues.

Homelessness then becomes an "incubator" for communicable diseases and chronic illness, he said. Life expectancy for a homeless person is 50 years, what it was for the general population in 1900. Rates of disease from colds to AIDS are three to six times higher, he said.

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council connects community health centers, hospitals, homeless projects and 700 doctors and social workers for advocacy, training, research and policy development.

While illness contributes to homelessness, the shortage of affordable housing in this country is a major cause, Lozier said. Having safe housing is key to staying healthy, he added.

"We need to work on these twin problems because they are basic human rights." v

Healthy Futures free health clinics

t Chesaning clinic: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at Rehmann Health Center, 147 S. Saginaw, Chesaning

t Hancock Clinic: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. first and third Thursdays of the month at the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, 500 Hancock in Saginaw

t Naseau Clinic: 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at the Hunger Solution Center, 940 E. Genesee in Saginaw

t Rapha's Clinic: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. one Saturday a month at Living Faith Ministries, 1902 Stone in Saginaw

t Underground Railroad Clinic: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays at the Underground Railroad in Saginaw.

Call 907-8408 for more details on clinic times and locations.

©2007 Saginaw News

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



Suspected killer faces more charges

Wednesday, May 02, 2007

THE SAGINAW NEWS

MIDLAND -- Charges continue to mount against a man prosecutors have accused of killing an Isabella County woman and attempting to solicit the murder of her daughter from his prison cell.

Isabella County Prosecutor Larry J. Burdick last week authorized a charge of aggravated stalking against Gordon D. Schultz.

The 46-year-old Midland man also faces an open charge of murder in the slaying of Becky S. MacDonald. In addition, Schultz faces a charge of solicitation for murder in Jackson County, where, authorities claim, he attempted to strike a deal with an undercover officer to kill MacDonald's daughter.

Isabella County Circuit Judge Mark Duthie denied bond for Schultz, who is in the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility in Jackson, where he is serving a 46-month to 15-year sentence for domestic violence, third offense, against MacDonald.

Schultz has a Thursday, May 10, preliminary hearing.

MacDonald disappeared Nov. 11, 2005. The 43-year-old Winn resident worked as a caregiver for an Alzheimer's patient.

Acting on a tip, police found her remains in January in a shallow grave in the Au Sable State Forest in Midland County's Edenville Township.

Burdick said the new charge stems from Schultz's relationship with MacDonald before her disappearance. v

©2007 Saginaw News

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **livingstondaily.com**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published May 1, 2007

LOCAL: LACASA seeks tour sponsors

The ninth annual LACASA Garden Tour weekend is set for July 14-15 and will showcase 10 of Livingston County's finest gardens, event organizers said.

Organizers are looking for businesses to sponsor the event while supporting LACASA in its mission to end domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

"We are thrilled with the growth of Garden Tour Weekend and look forward to welcoming more than 1,200 tour visitors and volunteers who make this event successful," Candy Jones-Guerin, marketing and community relations director, said in a prepared statement.

The tour is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will showcase 10 gardens. It also includes Twilight in the Garden, which is a food- and wine-tasting event at a featured LACASA tour site.

Sponsorships are available at all levels for the 2007 LACASA Garden Tour Weekend. By participating as a sponsor, a business can showcase products or services and benefit from the group's wide distribution of publicity for this weekend of events, organizers said.

Any business interested in being a sponsor is asked to call (517) 548-1350 for details.



Deadbeats on Web

Tuesday, May 01, 2007

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY -- Parents who fail to pay child support will be featured on the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department Web site -- with a \$100 reward offered for capture of a featured scofflaw. Sheriff George Lasater said the site will show pictures of those who fail to appear for hearings for nonpayment of child support. It will show the amount of arrears, too. For more information, go to www.charlevoixcounty.org/sheriff.asp.

©2007 Grand Rapids Press

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

Rewards offered for child support delinquents

CHARLEVOIX — Officials in Charlevoix County have upped the ante in their bid to apprehend people who have shirked their court-ordered child-support payments.

In a press release issued Monday, Charlevoix County Sheriff George T. Lasater said he has increased the reward his office offers for information leading to the arrest of those wanted on warrants for failure to appear at child support hearings from \$50 to \$100.

About a year ago, Lasater's office, in conjunction with the Charlevoix County Friend of the Court office began featuring information about people wanted on Friend of the Court failure-to-appear arrest warrants on the department's Web site.

The sheriff said the program has led to the arrest of several wanted people.

The sheriff's office Web address is www.charlevoixcounty.org/sheriff.asp

Lasater asks anyone with information about a person featured on the site to contact his office at 547-4461.

Global Vision Technologies, Inc. Signs 3-Year \$4.8 Million Extension with the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services

Global Vision Technologies, Inc. signs a 3-year \$4.8 million extension with the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services.

St. Louis, MO (PRWEB) May 2, 2007 -- Global Vision Technologies Inc. (GVT), a premiere software developer specializing in providing cost-effective, easy-to-use software applications, has signed a 3 year contract extension with the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services for \$4.8 Million for products and services. The total contract, which started early 2001 is now valued at just over \$14 million.

The GVT software application provides a framework and critical, secure, web-based access to records and forms concerning the care and treatment of children in the Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice arena throughout the state of Michigan. The system currently serves approximately 1000 users. Multiple agencies, including private providers and courts are able to use this system to better track the children in the state system. The application provides a web-based version of the child welfare and juvenile justice portion of similar SACWIS systems. GVT provides software development, software maintenance, support personnel and highly available redundant geographically diverse hosting as part of this contract.

About Global Vision Technologies, Inc.

Global Vision Technologies was founded in 1994, and has since grown into a diverse provider of unique software applications that serve both public and private sector clients. The software services that GVT provides apply to four areas: Training and Development Certification systems (OmniTrackPlus) including E-learning (<http://www.omnitrackplus.com>), Sales and Marketing Applications, Case Management Systems for Human Services (FAMcare), Court System Applications and Clinical Trial Software. GVT provides its clients with advanced web-based technologies that improve effectiveness and decision making, as well as increases productivity. For more information, visit us at www.globalvisiontech.com.

###

Contact Information

G RITACCO

Global Vision Technologies, Inc
<http://www.globalvisiontech.com>
7708887872

© Copyright, PR Web. All Rights Reserved



Two seeking one seat on Comstock Park Board of Ed

, May 1/, 20007

Two candidates will square off for one seat on the Comstock Park Board of Education May 8.

Incumbent Kathleen "Kitty" Sullivan is being challenged by Comstock Park resident Quanda Dykstra.

Sullivan has served on the Board of Education for eight years. She is a case manager specialist for Michigan Department of Human Services.

She has lived in the Comstock Park school district for 31 years and has three children who are Comstock Park High School graduates.

Dykstra is co-owner of Q-Innovation-S, Inc., plastic injection molding company.

She has been actively involved with the Comstock Park PTA as well as school fundraisers, campaigns and events in recent years.

Dykstra has three children currently enrolled in Comstock Park Schools.

She said she is seeking a seat on the Board of Education to ensure minority students and their families are properly represented on the board.

"One of the primary reasons I am running for election is that the minority parents needs a voice on the Comstock Park Board of Education," she said.

She also aims "to enhance the awareness, knowledge, and understanding of diversity in our school as well as our community," she said.

Sullivan said her previous eight years of experience serving on the Board of Education has provided her with the knowledge needed to positively shape the future of Comstock Park Schools.

"As an experienced incumbent, I have the background to continue to improve the education system," Sullivan said. "Every child within the Comstock Park School District should be afforded the highest quality of education."

In the face of seemingly never-ending state cuts in school funding, Board of Education members must continue to raise awareness about school funding issues, Sullivan said.

They must also communicate the district's financial needs to state legislators.

"The district should continue to aggressively find resources to accomplish this goal," Sullivan said. "The Board of Education must be fiscally responsible to the community of Comstock Park."

Dykstra acknowledged state budget cuts are making it increasingly difficult for schools to operate successfully.

She said the Board of Education should not turn to layoffs as a means of solving budget problems.

"We must find creative ways to cutback expenses without jeopardizing the jobs of our teachers and school staff assuring our students a continued quality education."

She said retaining qualified teachers will help students meet more rigorous education requirements mandated by the state.

©2007 Advance Newspapers

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

News Release

Contact: Karen Stock or Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

Improved Child Support Payment system saves taxpayers \$1.2 million *Electronic service proves popular with customers*

May 2, 2007

LANSING – Michigan's improved electronic child support payment system has produced a positive response from customers and significant savings for Michigan taxpayers.

Beginning in 2007, state law required the Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support, in coordination with local Friends of the Court, to disburse child support payments electronically to a custodial parent's personal banking account or to a debit card, unless the recipient met hardship requirements.

"We are always looking for efficiencies that improve service to our customers and save taxpayer dollars," DHS Director Marianne Udow said. "With \$1.2 million saved from October 2005 to December 2006, and a decrease in the amount of time needed to get child support into the hands of families, this program accomplished both."

The new system started with three counties in November 2005 and additional counties were phased into the program during 2006 and early 2007. Customers were able to choose between direct deposit to their personal bank account or a debit card.

"We have had very positive feedback from our customers," said Marilyn Stephen, director of the Office of Child Support. "They appreciate the efficiency, and custodial parents who have never had a bank account or debit card have told us that it helps them budget and keep better track of their money."

Prior to the new system, about 27 percent of support disbursements were done through direct deposit, with the remaining issued by a paper check and sent through the mail.

In March 2007, about 88 percent of disbursements were electronic, with approximately 54 percent going directly to customers' personal bank accounts and 34 percent deposited to debit cards. Over 191,000 debit cards have been issued. It is expected that the percentage of electronic disbursements will increase as Wayne County customers continue to activate debit cards that were sent during 2007.

Statewide less than 350 individuals have requested a hardship exemption from the program.

"For almost all of our customers, we have eliminated waiting for checks to come in the mail, prevented lost or stolen checks and helped them avoid check cashing fees, which could be significant," Stephen said. "With direct deposit there are no additional fees and over 87 percent of debit card transactions result in no fees as well."

The child support program distributes approximately \$1.4 billion per year.

For more information on electronic disbursement of child support, go www.michigan.gov/childsupport or www.misdu.com.

###